

United States District Court  
Southern District of Texas  
FILED

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NOV - 6 2008

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MCALLEN DIVISION

Michael N. Milby, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOSE ISMAEL SALAS (1),  
also known as Smiley

FIDEL VALLE, JR. — ~~FIDEL VALLE~~ (2),  
also known as Hito YITO (3.25.19 ADLR)

ROMEO ROSALES (3),  
also known as Ro, Roy

ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ (4),  
also known as UCLA

JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR. (5),  
also known as Mando, Mandio

NOEL DE LOS SANTOS (6),  
also known as Boy

JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA (7)  
also known as Gordo

BENJAMIN PIEDRA (8),  
also known as Piedra

JORGE PUGA (9),  
also known as Puga

RAUL GALINDO (10)  
also known as Lucky

CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ (11)  
also known as Cris

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ (12)  
also known as Taquache

JOEL CARCANO, JR. (13)

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Criminal No. M-07-231-S2

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[Violations:

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18 U.S.C. § 1962(d): Conspiracy to violate

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18 U.S.C. § 1962(c);

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18 U.S.C. § 2: Aiding and Abetting;

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21 U.S.C. § 846, 841(a)(1) & 841 (b)(1)(a):

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Conspiracy to possess with intent to

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distribute cocaine and marijuana;

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21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) & 841 (b)(1)(a):

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Possession with intent to distribute

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cocaine;

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18 U.S.C. § 1201: Kidnaping;

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18 U.S.C. § 1959: Violent Crimes in Aid of

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Racketeering Activity;

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18 U.S.C. § 1512(a)(1)(A): Tampering with

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a witness, victim, or an informant].

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SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

COUNT ONE

Title 18 U.S.C. §1962(d)

A. The Racketeering Enterprise

At various time material to this indictment:

1. Defendants, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley, FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito, ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy, ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA, JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio, NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy, JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA also known as Gordo, BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra, JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,** and others, were members of or associated with a criminal organization known as the Texas Syndicate (TS), whose members and associates engaged in murders, attempted murders, conspiracies to commit murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and other crimes within the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere.

2. The Texas Syndicate criminal organization, including its leadership, members, and associates, constitute an “enterprise” as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 1961(4), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact. The enterprise was engaged in, and its activities affected interstate and foreign commerce. The enterprise constituted an ongoing organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of obtaining the objectives of the enterprise.

3. The Texas Syndicate originated during the 1970's as a response by native Texas inmates to other prison gangs. The Texas Syndicate is a dominant prison gang in the State of Texas and is also recognized nationally as a major prison gang. Texas Syndicate members frequently refer to each other as “carnal” (brother) and maintain a distinct identity by establishing and enforcing specific TS rules, holding meetings, utilizing TS gang signs (horns), and by maintaining a close relationship with fellow gang members and their associates throughout the state. Some, but not all, TS members have TS tattoos. These tattoos commonly include horns

(“cuernos”), words containing the letters “T” and “S,” or various objects in the shape of a “T” and an “S.” Members consider it to be an offense against the organization to have a TS tattoo or to assert that you are a member of the Texas Syndicate prior to becoming a full member. Although obtaining TS related tattoos was once a common practice, some members of the TS have begun avoiding obtaining tattoos in order to shield their association with the TS from law enforcement. This allows members to function with less oversight, especially within the prison system.

4. A Texas Syndicate recruit is called a “prospecto” (prospect) or “pro.” The “prospecto” or “pro” is sponsored by a “carnal” who becomes the “prospecto’s” godfather or “padrino.” Individuals who perform work for the Texas Syndicate, but are not members, are referred to as associates.

5. The enterprise has a hierarchy for making decisions. Ranking TS members include titles such as lieutenants, sergeants, and sillons (chairmans), while regular members are referred to as soldiers. Each city and jail facility has a sillon (chair). The leadership within the prison system is often run out of the Darrington Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, commonly referred to by TS members as “Dragon.” Transfers of inmates, however, might affect the location of the leadership. These leaders would determine the enforcement of the rules and practices of the Texas Syndicate including when the rules needed to evolve to encompass the changing demands encountered by the organization.

6. Members of the Texas Syndicate are bound by a set of strict rules which ensure loyalty and participation in the enterprise’s criminal activities. The rules require that a member must continue his participation in the organization even after his release from prison. Soon after

his release from prison, a TS member must contact the high ranking member in the geographical area that the released member intends to reside. No member is permitted to break away from the group. Membership is for life. Any violation of the rules may result in harsh penalties, including death. A member who violates the rules and loses favor becomes a “muleta,” which is used to mean a problem. Such a violation may result in the TS bringing their own formal charges against the member who is being accused of violating the rules. Another member may receive a “camello” (a job) to eliminate this problem. The strict rules and harsh discipline governing the Texas Syndicate help insure that this organization’s members and associates will function as a continuing unit despite any changes in membership.

7. The rules of the Texas Syndicate prohibit the distribution of information regarding fellow members to law enforcement. Texas Syndicate members, therefore, generally attempt to conceal their association with this organization from law enforcement. If several TS members commit a crime, it is not uncommon for one member to demonstrate his loyalty by taking responsibility for the crime in order to shield his other TS brothers from the attention of law enforcement. TS members will also assist a fellow member in his pending criminal case. A TS member will attempt to discover the evidence that will be used against the fellow member or discover the names of the witness that will provide testimony in trial.

8. Although the rules of the TS exclude “shady” or “devious” characters, members who commit murders, aggravated assaults, robberies, or traffic in illegal drugs are not classified as being of bad character. Instead, this category is interpreted more narrowly to exclude child molesters and those who fail to follow the rules of the TS.

9. The TS rules provide that the TS is to come before family. "Carnales" make sure that the rules are known. It is understood that members and prospects of the TS may receive a telephone call and instructions to commit a homicide or some other crime for the Texas Syndicate at any time. Regardless of the member's friendship or association with the victim, the orders are to be carried out since the rules mandate that the TS comes first, even before family. The soldiers and prospectos are often used to carry out any violent TS business. Sometimes, members who have a problem or "muleta" that they need to work off in order to achieve a better status with the TS, are called upon to perform the "hits." The TS will not hesitate to kill anyone who interferes with the business of the gang or who commits a violation of Texas Syndicate rules.

10. Members of the Texas Syndicate maintain regular communication with their members who have been imprisoned on drug distribution and other charges. Such communication is often through letters and telephone calls. Coded language is frequently utilized in order to mislead law enforcement as to the true message contained in the letters or telephone calls. This coded language is often hidden in an otherwise meaningless letter or telephone calls. Examples of coded language indicating that someone is to be eliminated include putting an "X" over the name of the individual or by referring to this targeted individual as "X." Additionally, TS members will state that this targeted individual has a green light, or has been designated as a problem (muleta). A member who has fallen out of favor might also be referred to in the feminine form. Rival gang members may also be referred to in the feminine form and if a "hit" is ordered, the TS will refer to this "hit" or order as having a "green light."

11. Coded language is commonly utilized during drug related phone calls. Cocaine might be referred to by many names including: “white chicks,” “huercas,” “darlings,” or “hoes,” “twinkies” or “Tia.” Suppliers and customers would also use abbreviated numbers to indicate quantity and price, such as an order for two “350 big block engines” that cost \$1,250, meaning an order of two kilos of cocaine at \$12,500 each. When cocaine was available, the supplier might tell his customers that he had “work” available. The quality of cocaine was frequently discussed in terms of how pretty or how good the girls are. Payments for drugs were often called “receipts.”

12. The power of the Texas Syndicate organization is utilized to create fear and intimidation that shields members, ensures the timely payment of drug debts, and prevents the theft of members’ drugs or money. Violent retribution is an important activity of the enterprise. Such retribution helps enforce loyalty to the organization which is necessary to ensure the smooth running of the drug distribution business as well as the violent activities of the enterprise. Members and prospects are made aware that their affiliation with the TS requires their assistance with the criminal activity of the enterprise when called upon to do so and is an important step toward obtaining status in the organization.

13. Although the Texas Syndicate is a national organization with central governing rules, members within this organization have developed geographical groups to better serve the criminal aims of the organization. Each of these geographical groups has some autonomy in deciding how they will achieve their criminal aims, as long as they do not stray too far from the governing rules of the organization.

**B. The Purposes of the Criminal Enterprise**

14. The principal purpose of the enterprise was to maintain a powerful organization that could protect members and provide financial opportunities through criminal activity which included drug trafficking and/or other criminal acts constituting a pattern of racketeering activity as set forth in this indictment.

15. Members acted to protect each other and to build a strong organization through intimidation and violent retribution against outsiders and through strict and harsh discipline of members and associates who violated the rules and goals of the organization.

**C. The Manner and Means of the Criminal Enterprise**

16. Members and associates of the criminal organization committed crimes, including but not limited to murder and drug trafficking, to achieve the enterprise's economic goal of making money as well as to enforce the rules of the organization.

17. Victims of the violent crimes were often those who transgressed Texas Syndicate rules regardless of whether this violation was done knowingly or unknowingly. Strict discipline was an important factor in maintaining the strength of this criminal enterprise since it discouraged members from revealing Texas Syndicate business to law enforcement, from working for rival drug enterprises, or otherwise endangering the criminal aims of the organization.

18. Members and associates of this Texas Syndicate enterprise conspired with each other to distribute drugs and used the advantages provided by their organization to further their drug business throughout the State of Texas. All members were responsible for carrying out the

criminal aims of the enterprise. Telephones were utilized extensively by members to convey Texas Syndicate information. Members would utilize drug contacts who were not members of the Texas Syndicate if this would provide the best financial benefits to the enterprise.

19. Members and associates of this Texas Syndicate enterprise used a supplier to obtain controlled substances. **FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito**, supplied the controlled substances to **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, other Texas Syndicate members, or their associates for distribution to other places through out the Rio Grande Valley and the State of Texas.

20. Members of this TS enterprise had meetings (sometimes referred to as “barbeques”) where members would discuss and vote on important decisions. “Prospectos” were generally not allowed to make decisions or be present inside meetings (they stood outside); however, “prospectos” stood ready to carry out decisions made at these meetings as this would help improve their status in the organization. TS meetings would include discussions regarding what form of retaliation should be utilized to discipline a member or associate who had lost favor with the organization as well as how to make more money, such as through robbing other drug dealers. The available attendees and leaders at these meetings changed over time as members went in and out of prison or were on the run from the law, leaders fell out of favor, or members were killed for violating the rules.

**D. The Defendants**

21. The members, prospects, and others associated with the Texas Syndicate held the following roles within the criminal enterprise:



(1) **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, was the most influential member of the Rio Grande Valley chapter of the Texas Syndicate (TS) enterprise.

(2) **FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito**, was the major drug supplier for the TS in the Rio Grande Valley.

(3) **ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy**, was a soldier in the TS, and was called upon to use violence against others in order to enforce TS rules.

(4) **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, was a soldier in the TS, and a drug transporter.

(5) **JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio,** was a soldier in the TS.

(6) **NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy**, was a soldier in the TS, and was called upon to use violence against others in order to enforce TS rules.

(7) **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**, was a soldier in the TS, and was called upon to use violence against others in order to enforce TS rules.

(8) **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, was a soldier in the TS.

(9) **JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga**, was a soldier in the TS.

**E. The Violation**

22. Beginning in the mid-1990's, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, and continuing thereafter up to the date of the Indictment, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere, defendants,

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley,  
FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,  
JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio,  
NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy,  
JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA also known as Gordo,  
BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra  
and  
JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,**

together with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, being persons employed by and associated with the enterprise described in Paragraphs 1 through 15 of this Indictment, that is, the Texas Syndicate, which enterprise engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce, unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally, did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c). That is, to conduct and participate, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of the enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and 1961(5). The pattern of racketeering activity through which the defendants agreed to conduct the affairs of the enterprise consisted of the acts set forth in Racketeering Acts 1 through 9 of Paragraph F of Count One of this Indictment, which are incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

23. It was part of the conspiracy that each Defendant agreed that a conspirator would commit at least two acts of racketeering activity in the conduct of the affairs of the enterprise.

**F. The Racketeering Acts**

24. Some of the specific racketeering acts committed by coconspirators (many others are covered in the overt acts of this Indictment) included, but are not limited to, the following:

**(1) Racketeering Act One (Murder of Hector Camacho)**

25. On or about December 26, 2001, in the County of Hidalgo, and State of Texas, located within the Southern District of Texas, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley  
and  
JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Hector Camacho, by shooting Hector Camacho with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

**(2) Racketeering Act Two (Murder of Crisantos Moran)**

26. On or about March 20, 2003, in the County of Hidalgo, and State of Texas, located within the Southern District of Texas, defendants

**JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio  
and  
NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Crisantos Moran, by shooting Crisantos Moran with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

**(3) Racketeering Act Three (Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To  
Distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine  
and more than 1000 kilograms of Marijuana)**

27. From on or about January 1999, to the present, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley,  
FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,  
JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,  
ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy,  
JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio,  
ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA  
and  
JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA also known as Gordo,**

did knowingly and intentionally conspire together and with other persons known and unknown to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The controlled substance involved was more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, and more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A), as charged in Count Two of this Indictment.

**(4) Racketeering Act Four (Possession With Intent To Distribute  
39 Kilos of Marijuana)**

28. On or about March 28, 2003, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley  
and  
JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,**

did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute less than 50 kilograms of marijuana, that is, approximately 39 kilograms of marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**(5) Racketeering Act Five (Murder of Miguel Elizondo)**

29. On or about May 19, 2003, in the County of Hidalgo, and State of Texas, located within the Southern District of Texas, defendants

**JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo  
and  
BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally

and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Elizondo, by shooting Miguel Elizondo with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

**(6) Racketeering Act Six (Attempted Murder of Marisa Elizondo)**

30. On or about May 19, 2003, in the County of Hidalgo, and State of Texas, located within the Southern District of Texas, defendants

**JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**  
**and**  
**BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra,**

did then and there intentionally and knowingly with the specific intent to commit the offense of murder, did then and there attempt to cause the death of an individual, Marisa Elizondo, by attempting to shoot the victim, with a firearm, said act amounting to more than mere preparation that tended but failed to effect the commission of the offense intended, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 15.01, 19.02 and 7.01.

**(7) Racketeering Act Eight (Possession With Intent To Distribute  
6 Kilos of Cocaine)**

31. On or about August 12, 2004, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**  
**and**  
**FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,**

aided and abetted by other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors, did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The controlled substance involved was more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, that is, approximately 6 kilograms of cocaine, a

Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2, as charged in Count Three of this Indictment.

**(8) Racketeering Act Nine (Murder of Amancio Pinales-Garcia)**

32. On or about August 24, 2004, in the County of Cameron, and State of Texas, located within the Southern District of Texas, defendant

**ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy,**

did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Amancio Pinales-Garcia, by shooting Amancio Pinales-Garcia with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

**G. The Overt Acts**

33. In furtherance of the conspiracy and in order to effect the objects thereof, the Defendants and their co-conspirators, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere:

(1) On or about December 26, 2001, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley,** in Hidalgo County, Texas did shoot at Hector Camacho with a firearm.

(2) On or about December 26, 2001, **JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga,** in Hidalgo County, Texas, did shoot Hector Camacho with a firearm.

(3) On or about March 20, 2003, **JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio,** in Hidalgo County, Texas did shoot Crisantos Moran with a firearm.

(4) On or about March 20, 2003, **NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did shoot Crisantos Moran with a firearm.

(5) On or about March 28, 2003, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, and **JORGE PUGA, also known as Puga**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did posses and package marijuana at a residence located in Alamo, Texas.

(6) On or about May 19, 2003, **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**, gave a firearm to **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, and informed him that they were going to visit Miguel "Mike" Elizondo at his San Juan, Texas residence.

(7) On or about May 19, 2003, **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**, told **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, to ask Marisa Elizondo, to use the restroom so that **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**, could then shoot and kill Miguel "Mike" Elizondo.

(8) On or about May 19, 2003, **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo**, told **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, that once he heard gun shots, that **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra** was to shoot and kill Marisa Elizondo.

(9) On or about May 19, 2003, **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, in Hidalgo County, Texas did go to a residence in San Juan, Texas for the purpose of murdering Miguel Elizondo.

(10) On or about May 19, 2003, **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did use a firearm to shoot at Miguel Elizondo.

(11) On or about May 19, 2003, **BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did use a firearm to shoot at Marisa Elizondo.

(12) On or about February 12, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did agree to sell approximately ¼ kilogram of cocaine to a prospective buyer.

(13) On or about March 22, 2004, **JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mandio, Mando**, did contact **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, and requested that **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, provide money to bond out **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, from the Hidalgo, Texas county jail for the specific purpose of having **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, smuggle illegal drugs into the Hidalgo County jail.

(14) On or about May 8, 2004, **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, did bond out of the Hidalgo County jail.

(15) On or about May 13, 2004, **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, was arrested for disorderly conduct outside the Hidalgo County jail.

(16) On or about July 24, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did contact **ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy**, and others known and unknown for the purpose of performing a home invasion.

(17) On or about July 24, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did instruct **ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy**, and others known and unknown to go into the house that had been targeted for the home invasion.

(18) On or about July 24, 2004, **ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy**, and others known and unknown, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did attempt to locate the home that was targeted for the home invasion.



(19) On or about July 30, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas did contact **ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy**, and **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, and instructed them to obtain items to be used to package illegal drugs.

(20) On or about July 30, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas, did instruct **ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA**, on how to package the illegal drugs.

(21) On or about July 30, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas did take illegal drugs into the Hidalgo County, Texas jail.

(22) On or about August 12, 2004, **JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**, in Hidalgo County, Texas did contact **FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito**, to obtain information on the purchase of cocaine.

(23) On or about August 12, 2004, **FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito**, in Hidalgo County, Texas did provide cocaine to Vicente Duarte Casas and Noe Martinez-Lopez.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d).

**COUNT TWO**

**[21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(A)]**

From on or about March 28, 2003, to the present, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley,  
FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,  
ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy  
and  
ADAN ROBERTO RUIZ, also known as UCLA,**

did knowingly and intentionally conspire with other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The controlled substance involved was more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, and more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

**COUNT THREE**  
**[21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(A)]**

On or about August 12, 2004, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**JOSE ISMAEL SALAS, also known as Smiley**  
**and**  
**FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,**

aided and abetted by other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors, did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The controlled substance involved was more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, that is, approximately 6 kilograms of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT FOUR**  
**[18 U.S.C. §1201]**

On or about August 24, 2004, in the Southern District of Texas, and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendant

**ROMEO ROSALES, also known as Ro, Roy,**

did knowingly and acting contrary to law, did kidnap, seize, confine, and inveigle Amancio Pinales-Garcia for some purpose or benefit and did wilfully transport Amancio Pinales-Garcia while so kidnaped, confined and inveigled in foreign commerce.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201 and Section 2.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**[18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(1)]**

The defendants named below committed the following violent crime in aid of racketeering activity:

(1) At all times relevant to the Indictment, the racketeering enterprise, as more fully described in Section A of Count One of this Indictment, which is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth herein, constituted an enterprise as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce.

(2) At all time relevant to this Indictment, the above-described enterprise, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1) namely, offenses involving the felonious manufacture, importation, receiving, concealment, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and acts involving murder, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

(3) On or about March 20, 2003, in the Southern District of Texas, for the purpose of gaining entrance to, maintaining and increasing their position in the enterprise, an enterprise

engaged in racketeering activity, as set forth more fully in Count One of this indictment,  
defendants

**JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio  
and  
NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally  
and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Crisantos Moran, by shooting Crisantos  
Moran with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and  
7.01.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(1) and 2.

#### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL FINDINGS**

1. The allegations of Count Five of this indictment are hereby realleged as if fully set forth herein and incorporated by reference.
2. As to Count Five, defendants **JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio, and NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy,**
  - a. were 18 years of age or older at the time of the offenses. (Title 18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)).
  - b. intentionally killed Crisantos Moran (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(A)).
  - c. intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury that resulted in the death of Crisantos Moran (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(B)).
  - d. intentionally participated in one or more acts, contemplating that the life of a person would be taken or intending that lethal force would be used in

connection with a person, other than a participant in the offense, and Crisantos Moran died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(C)).

- e. intentionally and specifically engaged in one or more acts of violence, knowing that the act or acts created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offense, such that participation in such act or acts constituted a reckless disregard for human life, and Crisantos Moran died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(D)).
- f. committed the offense in an especially heinous, cruel, or depraved manner in that it involved serious physical abuse to Crisantos Moran (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(6)).
- g. committed the offense after substantial planning and premeditation to cause the death of Crisantos Moran (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(9)).
- h. defendant, **JOSE ARMANDO GARCIA, JR., also known as Mando, Mandio**, was previously convicted of another Federal or State offense resulting in the death of a person, for which a sentence of life imprisonment or a sentenced of death was authorized, namely, the defendant was convicted of murdering Marcy Ortiz in cause number CR-3694-05-D (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(3)).
- i. defendant, **NOEL DE LOS SANTOS, also known as Boy**, was

previously convicted of a Federal or State offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year, involving the use or attempted use of a firearm against another person, that is possession of a prohibited weapon n cause number CR-1318-97-B (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(2)).

**COUNT SIX**  
**[18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(1)]**

The defendants named below committed the following violent crime in aid of racketeering activity:

(1) At all times relevant to the Indictment, the racketeering enterprise, as more fully described in Section A of Count One of this Indictment, which is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth herein, constituted an enterprise as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce.

(2) At all time relevant to this Indictment, the above-described enterprise, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1) namely, offenses involving the felonious manufacture, importation, receiving, concealment, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and acts involving murder, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

(3) On or about May 19, 2003, in the Southern District of Texas, for the purpose of gaining entrance to, maintaining and increasing their position in the enterprise, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as set forth more fully in Count One of this indictment, defendants

**JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA also known as Gordo  
and  
BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Miguel Elizondo, by shooting Miguel Elizondo with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(1) and 2.

**COUNT SEVEN  
[18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(5)]**

The defendants named below committed the following violent crime in aid of racketeering activity:

(1) At all times relevant to the Indictment, the racketeering enterprise, as more fully described in Section A of Count One of this Indictment, which is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth herein, constituted an enterprise as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce.

(2) At all time relevant to this Indictment, the above-described enterprise, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1) namely, offenses involving the felonious manufacture, importation, receiving, concealment, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and acts involving murder, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

(3) On or about May 19, 2003, in the Southern District of Texas, for the purpose of gaining entrance to, maintaining and increasing their position in the enterprise, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as set forth more fully in Count One of this indictment, defendants

**JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA also known as Gordo  
and  
BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra,**

did then and there intentionally and knowingly with the specific intent to commit the offense of murder, did then and there attempt to cause the death of an individual, Marisa Elizondo, by attempting to shoot the victim, with a firearm, said act amounting to more than mere preparation that tended but failed to effect the commission of the offense intended, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 15.01, 19.02 and 7.01.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(5) and 2.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL FINDINGS**

1. The allegations of Counts Six and Seven of this indictment are hereby realleged as if fully set forth herein and incorporated by reference.
2. As to Count Five, defendants **JUAN PABLO HINOJOSA, also known as Gordo and BENJAMIN PIEDRA, also known as Piedra,**
  - a. were 18 years of age or older at the time of the offenses. (Title 18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)).
  - b. intentionally killed Miguel Elizondo (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(A)).
  - c. intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury that resulted in the death of Miguel Elizondo(18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(B)).



- d. intentionally participated in one or more acts, contemplating that the life of a person would be taken or intending that lethal force would be used in connection with a person, other than a participant in the offense, and Miguel Elizondo died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(C)).
- e. intentionally and specifically engaged in one or more acts of violence, knowing that the act or acts created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offense, such that participation in such act or acts constituted a reckless disregard for human life, and Miguel Elizondo died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(D)).
- f. committed the offense in an especially heinous, cruel, or depraved manner in that it involved serious physical abuse to Miguel Elizondo(18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(6)).
- g. committed the offense after substantial planning and premeditation to cause the death of Miguel Elizondo(18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(9)).
- h. in the commission of the offense, the defendants intentionally killed or attempted to kill more than one person in a single criminal episode (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(16)).

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**[18 U.S.C. §1959(a)(1)]**

The defendants named below committed the following violent crime in aid of racketeering activity:

(1) At all times relevant to the Indictment, the racketeering enterprise, as more fully described in Section A of Count One of this Indictment, which is re-alleged and incorporated by reference as though set forth herein, constituted an enterprise as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(b)(2), that is, a group of individuals associated in fact which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce.

(2) At all time relevant to this Indictment, the above-described enterprise, through its members and associates, engaged in racketeering activity as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(b)(1) and 1961(1) namely, offenses involving the felonious manufacture, importation, receiving, concealment, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and acts involving murder, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

(3) On or about July 8, 2007, in the Southern District of Texas, for the purpose of gaining entrance to, maintaining and increasing their position in the enterprise, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, as set forth more fully in Count One of this indictment, defendants

**RAUL GALINDO, also known as Lucky,  
CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ, also known as Cris,  
ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, also known as Taquache  
and  
JOEL CARCANO, JR.,**

aiding each other, did commit an act involving murder, that is, did then and there intentionally and knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely, Marcelino Rodriguez, by shooting Marcelino Rodriguez with a firearm, a deadly weapon, in violation of Texas Penal Code, Sections 19.02 and 7.01.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1959(a)(1) and 2.

**COUNT NINE**  
**[18 U.S.C. §1512(a)(1)(A)]**

On or about July 8, 2007, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, defendants

**RAUL GALINDO, also known as Lucky,  
CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ, also known as Cris,  
ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, also known as Taquache  
and  
JOEL CARCANO, JR.,**

did kill and aided and abetted another to kill Marcelino Rodriguez with the intent to prevent Marcelino Rodriguez from attending or providing testimony at an official proceeding in the Southern District of Texas, namely providing testimony in, United States v. Jose Ismael Salas, et. al., in cause number M-07-231.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(a)(1)(A) and 2.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL FINDINGS**

1. The allegations of Counts Eight and Nine of this indictment are hereby realleged as if fully set forth herein and incorporated by reference.
2. As to Counts eight and nine, defendants **RAUL GALINDO, also known as Lucky, CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ, also known as Cris, ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, also known as Taquache and JOEL CARCANO, JR.**
  - a. were 18 years of age or older at the time of the offenses. (Title 18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)).

- b. intentionally killed Marcelino Rodriguez (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(A)).
- c. intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury that resulted in the death of Marcelino Rodriguez (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(B)).
- d. intentionally participated in one or more acts, contemplating that the life of a person would be taken or intending that lethal force would be used in connection with a person, other than a participant in the offense, and Marcelino Rodriguez died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(C)).
- e. intentionally and specifically engaged in one or more acts of violence, knowing that the act or acts created a grave risk of death to a person, other than one of the participants in the offense, such that participation in such act or acts constituted a reckless disregard for human life, and Marcelino Rodriguez died as a direct result of such act or acts (18 U.S.C. § 3591(a)(2)(D)).
- f. committed the offense in an especially heinous, cruel, or depraved manner in that it involved serious physical abuse to Marcelino Rodriguez (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(6)).
- g. committed the offense after substantial planning and premeditation to cause the death of Marcelino Rodriguez (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(9)).
- h. defendant **RAUL GALINDO, also known as Lucky**, having previously been convicted for violating title II or III of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 for which a sentence of 5 or more years may be imposed, that is possession with intent to distribute 122

kilograms of marijuana in cause number C-01-333 (18 U.S.C. § 3592(c)(12)).

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**

As a result of the foregoing violations of Title 21, United States Code, 841(a)(1),  
defendant

**FIDEL VALLE, also known as Hito,**

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, § 853(a), all of his interests in all property constituting or derived from any proceeds he obtained directly or indirectly from those offenses charged above, as well as all property used or intended to be used in any manner to commit or to facilitate the commission those offenses charged above, including but not limited to that property described as:

All of Lot Two (2) out of K & K SUBDIVISION and being 1.50 acres, more or less, out of a 3.00 acre tract of land out of the East 10.00 acres of Block 25, HILL-HALBERT SUBDIVISION OF El Gato and La Blanca Grants, Hidalgo County, Texas as per the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 27, Page 23-B, Map Record, Hidalgo County, Texas;

along with all its fixtures, improvements, attachments, and accretions.

If any property forfeitable by Title 21, United States Code, § 853(a), as a result of any act or omission of the Defendant:

- (1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (2) has been transferred or sold to a third person or entity;
- (3) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (4) has been substantially diminished in value;
- (5) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, § 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any and all other property of said Defendant, including any property charged above and determined not to be subject to forfeiture by 21, United States Code, § 853(a), as substitute assets for those properties whose forfeiture is impeded for the reasons (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) described above.

A TRUE BILL:

  
FOREPERSON 

DONALD J. DeGABRIELLE, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY